

## ***Passing* Part Two Open-Ended Seminar (Alpha)**

Today I am going to provide time for an open-ended seminar about *Passing* Part Two. The goal of an open-ended seminar is for us to reflect on an experience we have all had – reading a section of a book, in this case – and try to understand that experience better. In other words, today is a chance for us to really try to understand what’s going on in this section of *Passing*.

Below are the questions that were sent to me by 8:30 this morning. If there are more questions you would like to add to the list, feel free to do that. Also, notice that at least one of the questions below is about the meaning of a sentence. It’s never a bad idea to ask a question about a puzzling sentence or passage from a reading.

Since this is your chance to understand the book better, I would like you all to direct this activity. Choose which questions you would like to discuss, and decide when to move on to another question.

- Clare has passed for white for years. Why does she want to be a "negro" again, and now out of all times? (Erica)
- What does Irene mean by, "If you were to go there alone, you might be mistaken for one of them, and that wouldn't be too pleasant" (55). If "them" means Negroes wouldn't she be talking trash about her own race? (Nodiyah)
- Do you think that John's opinions or Brian's opinions about “passing” are truer than one another? (ZhenHua)
- How would Margery react if she finds out she's black? (Dmitri)
- Is Irene a real friend to Clare, or is she just trying to make her feel good about herself and be happy? (Dmitri)
- What does it say about how Irene feels about beauty and one’s identity that she thinks that her husband’s skin color is the most attractive thing about him? (Eowyn)
- Why does Clare begin to insert herself into Irene's life, parties, personal dinners, bridge, etc.? (Niekal)
- When did Clare and Irene switch roles? In Chapter One Clare wanted Irene to do things and go to events with her, and now Clare is doing things and going places with Clare. (Niekal)
- When Irene is talking to Clare about her daughter, Margery, in Chapter Two, she says, “She’d never forgive you. You may be used to risks, but this is one you mustn’t take, Clare. It’s a selfish whim, an unnecessary and –” (53). What makes this risk “selfish” and “unnecessary”? (Mr. Hultgren)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Passing* Part Two Open-Ended Seminar (Beta)**

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- Why does Irene treat Clare like a stranger? (Kniya)
- Why does Brian not let Irene see Clare? (Megan)
- Why does Brian think Clare would pester her when Clare’s husband was the one who had given her the name, not Clare? (Megan)
- Why does Irene prefer to put Jr. in a European school? (Megan)
- Why does Irene have a problem with Clare passing when she could also pass too? Why is Irene hypocritical about "passing"? (Devin)
- When Irene is talking to Clare about her daughter, Margery, in Chapter Two, she says, “She’d never forgive you. You may be used to risks, but this is one you mustn’t take, Clare. It’s a selfish whim, an unnecessary and –” (53). What makes this risk “selfish” and “unnecessary”? (Mr. Hultgren)

## ***Passing* Part Two Open-Ended Seminar (Eta)**

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Since this is your chance to understand the book better, I would like you all to direct this activity. Choose which questions you would like to discuss, and decide when to move on to another question.

- Why does Irene let Clare convince her to take her to the dance that Hugh Wentworth invited her to go to when there is going to be a lot of white people there? (Zaid)
- What sort of relationship do Irene and Clare have? Are/were they lovers? (Karl)
- Why is Claire so laid back about passing off as a white person? (Da’Quon)
- Why does Clare want to reconnect with Irene so much? (Lailah)
- Did Irene stop writing Clare because she is passing? (Lindsey)
- What are Irene’s feelings about Clare “passing”? (Jasmine)
- Why is Irene angry about Clare “passing” when she can pass as well? (Corey)
- Why is Irene so irritated by Clare’s passing? (Kevin)
- When Irene is talking to Clare about her daughter, Margery, in Chapter Two, she says, “She’d never forgive you. You may be used to risks, but this is one you mustn’t take, Clare. It’s a selfish whim, an unnecessary and –” (53). What makes this risk “selfish” and “unnecessary”? (Mr. Hultgren)